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School Committee Minutes 01/22/2008

Approved by School Committee February 12, 2008

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008
7:30 PM

Present:

Susan Lovelace, Chair
Jeff Thielman, Secretary
Denise Burns
Joe Curran
Sue Sheffler
Ronald Spangler

Superintendent: Nate Levenson

Asst. Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie

Chief Financial Off: Sue Mazzarella

Interim Sp. Ed. Dir: Gerald Kupperschmidt

Absent:

Sean Garballey, Vice Chair
Student Rep: Callie McHugh
Student Rep: Bobby McWatters

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joe Currio, parent of Stratton would the committee to support the safety route plans for Stratton School.

Ron Colosi, Metco Counselor and 1st Interim VP of AEA, spoke on behalf of the AEA, on the school administration's decision to drop Mr. Coughlin's unemployment appeal to save money.

Jack Duranceu, President of AEA, teacher, parent and resident of Arlington stated that he is tired of being misrepresented on the legal issues and stated that the AEA is footing the bill for the Coughlin dismissal Arbitration and will be at the hearings, as he was subpoenaed.

Tim Kearny, lifelong Arlington resident spoke on the Thompson School safety routes and the snow removal problems in the area.

Stephen Harrington, 40 year resident of Arlington would like to raise awareness to the committee and town that he has ask the Board of Selectmen to insert a Warrant Article to ask the town for the removal of snow from heavily used sidewalks that affect the town and safe school routes. Mr. Harrington has the support of many businesses, Chambers of Commerce, Disabled Commission, and the Council of Aging.

CONSENT AGENDA – all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

Move the start time of the School Committee meeting on Feb 12, 2008 to 6:30 pm

Move the Early Release back to April 8th from March 11, 2008

**Approval of the minutes from January 8, 2008 meeting*

**Approval of Warrant # 08092 dated January 8, 2008 in the amount of \$772,081.04*

Second Reading of Policies:

delete polices: ADA- School District Goals and Objectives, AD-E Educational Philosophy (for Arlington High School) and ADA-E Arlington High School Missions Statement and AE: Commitment to Accomplishment.

Replace policy: AD- Educational Philosophy in its entirety with a policy titled "Vision and Mission".

Revise policy ADDA - C.O.R.I Requirements.

GCCB- Employment of Principals- date changed from April 1 to July 1

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was voted to approve the consent agenda.

Vote 5 yes, 1 abstention by Mr. Curran

RECOGNITION

Ms. Lovelace recognized the eighteen students from the Ottoson who participated in the New England Mass District Musical Festival. Representing~Ottoson Middle School~in the concert were: Eric Cheng, Sally Chung, Tina Kambil, Jennifer Kim, Linnea Kirby, Samuel Rivera, Yoshira Sakurai, Ryan Salocks, David Shin, Alex Travassos, Karl Zimmer, Gabriella Tashjian, Julia Weinberg, Siddharth Hiregowdara, Nathan Canada, Kate Berry, Andreanne Carbonneau and Anna Blachman.

The Bishop School artwork for grades 1, 4, and 5 were acknowledges and is being displayed in the School Committee Room.

Our winter sports season has begun and the Boy's Hockey is currently 3-4-3, they recently tied Waltham who was number 4 in the state at the time. Girl's Hockey is currently on a perfect roll. The Boys and Girl's basketball teams have all their players finally healthy and are both playing better basketball. The teams are both 2-6. Our Co-ed swim team is undefeated in GBL meets and 3-1 overall. For the first time in school history our gymnastics team has a spring floor. A parent donated the floor. They are 1- 3 as a team. Our wrestling team is 9-4 and had three individual champions at the Belmont Tournament John Fahey, Brian Flynn and Matt Willey. Our tack teams are both 3-.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Parents from the Thompson, Bishop, and Peirce and Dallin schools spoke on the safe routes, signage, sidewalks, and traffic and snow issues at each of their school. All parents who spoke support having more traffic supervisors for safety for all children.

Principal Deb D'Amico, Wallis Reamer and Alan Brown concur with the parents. All have been collaborating with Ed Starr, Jeff Maxtutis, Scott Smith and Elizabeth Care Jones of the Transportation Advisory Committee on the 5-year plan on Pedestrian Safety and would like school committee to endorse this plan. The committee members were in agreement and appreciate the commitment from all who are involved.

On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was motioned to move the committee to whole heartily endorse the Conceptual Plan to Improve School Transportation Safety and work with the effective groups School Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen to make this happen.

Vote 6:0 unanimous

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Superintendent Levenson noted the discussion and presentation on Early Childhood Education was overdue and recognizes the needs of the children are growing. This will impact the special education budget for next year.

Ms. Lori Villani presented on Early Childhood Education in Arlington on where we are at and where we are going.

The committee asked about location plans, the reaction from parents and the budget impact. Superintendent Levenson did note the location plans are still being worked on and noted that he is working within the Special Education communication plan that was handed out tonight

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Lovelace entertained the motion to approve the Superintendents plan for Grant Writing and Mr. Thielman seconded motion.

Ms. Burns would like more time to research the company that was presented and requested to have the committee postpone on taking the vote.

Ms. Lovelace withdrew the motion.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Spangler went over the three policies for the first reading of:

*IGD- Curriculum Adoption- modifications to align with current committee practice
BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties –revisions*

BDEA- School Committee Subcommittees add "District Accountability" to list.

At the next Policy and Procedures Subcommittee meeting with Nate Levenson, policy BBA School Committee Powers and Duties will be further discussing issues relating to item # 9. Principals Contracts.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Thielman reported on correspondence received

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Burns made the motion to refer to the Policies and Procedures subcommittee for clarification and recommendation to the full board around policies related to the employment of lawyers beyond scope of retainer, to address.

- 1. Consider what /if any types of legal activities requested from Supt. should require approval of the school committee***
 - a. Investigations***
 - b. Law suits***
 - c. Other items or all items outside what is covered by retainer***
 - d. Items that could potentially have budget impact***
- 2. When the school committee has not approved specific activity of the lawyer, provide a policy that would require counsel represent distinctly as attorney to the district or superintendent rather than school committee, to clarify the directive for legal direction.***
- 3. Investigate any precedent, practices in other districts around this.***

Mr. Spangler would support the motion if number 1, 2, and 3 were deleted and would like to amend the motion to read as follows:

To refer to the Policies and Procedures subcommittee for clarification and recommendation to the full board around policies related to the employment of lawyers beyond scope of retainer.

Vote: 5 – 0 – 1 Abstention by Ms. Sheffler

ADJOURN

Ms. Lovelace entertained the motion to adjourn at 10:10 pm and the motion was seconded by Ms. Sheffler to adjourn.

Vote 6:0

*Submitted by
Karen Fitzgerald
School Committee
Administrative Assistant*